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The Highlander

Thursday February 17 2022 | Issue 528

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FREE



Flipping for Flapjack

The Hagarty family pose with Flapjack, an Abbey Gardens' pony. The furry friends greeted some of the 450 attendees to the Gardens' Cupid's Carnival Valentine's celebration Feb. 12, featuring live music, vendors and themed food and drink.

Photo by Sam Gillett.

County to get new long-term care home

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County will have a new state-of-the-art long-term care home within three years.

News of funding for the \$41 million, 128-bed facility was announced by the province and Extendicare during a Feb. 14 Zoom press conference.

Minister of Long-Term Care Paul Calandra, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Extendicare

president and CAO Michael Guerriere and County warden Liz Danielsen spoke during the call.

Danielsen said the County was "very excited to hear the announcement from the province."

She added the need for improvements in LTC have become critical over the last few years "and sadly COVID-19 has made that challenge very difficult for our health care professionals. Our thanks to the province for making long-term care a priority for

Haliburton and beyond."

Extendicare currently operates a facility in Haliburton village and it's expected its replacement will also be in Dysart et al, although there was no announcement as to location. The private company operates 96 homes in four provinces. Guerriere said this will be the seventh new home to be built in its chain.

"The Haliburton project will enable us to replace our current facility and build a brand new 128-room long-term care home,

more than doubling our current capacity in the community," Guerriere said.

He added it will feature state-of-the-art design standards "to meet the current and future needs of seniors." According to the president and CAO, it will equate to more space to connect with loved ones, increased privacy and comfort; be more conducive to resident quality of life; have enhanced resident activity areas and flexible space for

Continued 'Construction' on page 2

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Highlander news

Provincial grant funds arena equipment

By Sam Gillett

The Minden arena will soon be open at full capacity and thanks to a \$150,000 provincial grant, it's now stocked with sports and exercise equipment for Highlanders eager to get moving.

"It's to get more people active and help flesh out this fantastic arena and community centre we have now," said MPP Laurie Scott, who attended a Feb. 15 press event.

Delivered through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the fund helped purchase hockey nets, ball hockey sticks, soccer balls and basketballs, fitness equipment and basketball and volleyball nets. It also funded the construction of a retractable stage and roll-up curtains for the gym.

In a press release, director of community services Craig Belfry said, "this grant will allow the township to foster more active lifestyles in the community, as this initiative is helping with infrastructure for unstructured and structured physical activities, and will have an impact on the lives of residents for years to come."

The grant was awarded in 2019 but pandemic-related delays mean equipment is still arriving.

"I'm going to be extremely excited that everybody in the community can come use [the arena] to its full potential," said Mayor Brent Devolin.

Opened in 2020, the arena has been primarily used by the Haliburton County Junior A Huskies and as a mass vaccination clinic.

Devolin said while he wished the public had full access to the space earlier, he was glad it could play a role in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the end, it worked out well, but the path to get here was anything but what was predicted," he said.

Soon the arena will be allowed to open at full capacity.

"We've been prepared all along. We've gotten our staffing in place," said Belfry. He added they're planning on increasing hours and announcing new programming soon, as well as an official opening event.

"We're excited, we're ready," he said.



Tanya Budgen, manager of parks recreation and facilities, Craig Belfry, director of community services, MPP Laurie Scott, Mayor Brent Devolin and Coun. Bob Carter.
Photo by Sam Gillett.

Construction expected to start in the fall of 2023

Continued from page 1

restorative and palliative services.

"Extendicare is committed to serving seniors in this region long into the future," he said.

68 new and 60 upgraded beds

When asked by *The Highlander* about the actual number of new beds, once residents are moved into the facility, Guerriere said approximately 70. Asked about timelines, he said within three years. A follow-up press release said there would be 68 new and 60 upgraded beds.

Scott called it "a great announcement for Haliburton County."

She said COVID had highlighted decades-long challenges in the long-term care sector and the provincial government is continuing to deliver on its promise to fix the system

via a three-pillar approach: improving staffing and care; better accountability, enforcement and transparency; and building modern, safe and comfortable homes for seniors.

"After many years of listening to community members and working with Warden Liz Danielsen and councillors past and present ... our government is investing to help those who are waiting for a bed and waiting to receive the care they need and deserve in their own community," Scott said.

She added it will help reduce pressure on local hospitals and the community paramedicine for long-term care program by creating a safe and appropriate care setting.

As such, Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CAO Carolyn Plummer also lauded the news.

"This is exciting and welcome news; HHHS is pleased that the Government of Ontario continues to invest in the creation of new long-term care beds, especially in our region. We hope this helps with access and wait times for those waiting for a spot in a long-term care home in our community, whether it be individuals who are at home and needing to transition to long-term care, or those in hospital who are awaiting placement in a long-term care home," she said.

Fears over staffing

Meanwhile, The Haliburton CKL Long-Term Care Coalition said it was surprised by the announcement to build a new, for-profit LTC Extendicare in Haliburton.

"Our coalition commends Extendicare Haliburton staff for keeping residents safe during the pandemic and for the high

quality of care they provide," spokesperson Bonnie Roe said.

However, she asked, "at a time when nurses and PSWs are leaving the profession due to burnout and poor wages and working conditions, how will the new home find staff to provide the level of care needed and ensure training begins now?"

She said the coalition believes this is a key opportunity to look at alternative living options for an aging population.

"We need to take profit out of elder care. Families, residents and advocates have begged the Ford government to re-think our LTC system and put monies into home care to enable elders to live comfortably in their homes for as long as they can. We want our community to learn from countries worldwide that have built small, community models for our elders that are person-driven and feel like home."



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County reserves lagging behind peers

By Lisa Gervais

County council decided to put \$500,000 of unspent money from 2021 into reserves during a meeting Feb. 9. The move came after a presentation from an accountant saying the municipality was in last place out of 18 comparable municipalities when it comes to reserve contributions.

Oscar Poloni of KPMG delivered a sobering reserve and reserve fund analysis during last week's committee of the whole meeting.

"The intention of the analysis is to provide the County with insight into its reserves and reserve funds in comparison to other counties, as well as some potential courses of action that could be considered by the County as part of its broader financial planning," Poloni said.

In the last 10 years, the County's reserve balances have increased from \$4.3 million to \$6.8 million, due in large part to provincial funding, such as modernization and the Safe Restart program.

Poloni said under \$2 million is in working funds - a contingency for unexpected needs - and the rest is "other".

However, the size of the County's budget has increased as well, with reserves and reserve funds now representing a smaller percentage of total expenditures.

In comparison to 18 other Ontario counties with 50,000 or fewer households, the KPMG report found Haliburton County's reserves and reserve fund balances "towards the lower end of the group."

In fact, they were dead last in reserve funds - \$6.8 million compared to an average of \$51.4 million - and last in reserve funds per household - \$321 versus the average of \$1,532. They came in 15 out of 18 as a percentage of expenditures and 17 out of 18 as a percentage of TCA cost.

Poloni said the challenge is that "ultimately, the County's reserve and reserve fund policy needs to balance its financial needs with the issue of affordability."

That being said, he noted the County's residential tax rate was the second lowest among the counties studied.

He suggested three courses of action:

- A long-term financial plan that outlines planned operating and capital expenditures



The County office on Feb. 15. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

and associated funding sources, allowing the County to introduce a phased-in approach to adjusting reserve and reserve fund levels.

- Adopt a formal reserve and reserve fund policy that outlines: types of reserves and associated uses; minimum and maximum balances; policies for financing and reporting.
- Consider alternative approaches to financing that can supplement reserves and reserve funds, such as debt, development charges or special levies.

Councillors respond

Warden Liz Danielsen said, "I know we've done a lot of work to put ourselves on an appropriate path to sustainability but it's quite obvious from your numbers that we've got a way to go." She said she welcomed the suggestion about a reserve fund policy. Further, "it's becoming more

and more apparent that we really do need to investigate or take a deeper dive into development charges and see how that will support our moving forward."

Coun. Pat Kennedy noted some of the County's challenges include a high percentage residential tax base, versus commercial and industrial. He noted the municipality "has jumped seven years into the future" in terms of growth. It's required more staff and the hiring of consultants. He thought special levies and development charges were worth looking into.

Coun. Brent Devolin asked CAO Mike Rutter about the work involved in a formal reserve and reserve fund plan. Rutter said treasurer Andrea Bull had been working on it for a couple of years and they could have something for the council to consider before the end of its term.

Coun. Andrea Roberts commented that a combination of reserves and debt is probably a better mix. She also spoke in

favour of looking into development charges. Coun. Cec Ryall questioned whether there was a recommended debt to reserve average. But Poloni said it is very much a municipal perspective.

Later in the meeting, during a discussion about a \$500,000 surplus from the 2021 budget, Devolin suggested that money go into reserves.

"Given Oscar's discussion that he had with us today, I would put forward that we move that money into reserves ... does the rest of council have an appetite to add a half-a-million dollars in one stroke of a pen to that with a tax rate increase that I think is definitely lower than inflation, given the rate of inflation, is quite good?" he asked. Council passed its 2022 budget at the meeting with a 3.22 per cent levy increase.

"I don't think that Haliburton County wants to be the lowest," Roberts said of being 18 out of 18.

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AH gets to work on docks and landings

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands staff are seeking public feedback over the summertime use of the Skin Lake boat launch as the township gets going with its docks and landings improvement program.

Addressing council Feb. 3, Chris Card, parks, recreation and trails manager, said the Skin Lake site was the first location identified through the municipality's asset management plan for upgrades. Presently, the site has a gravel approach down to the lake, retaining wall and wooden dock.

Card wants to replace the existing launch and fixed dock with a more environmentally-friendly option, something that councillors seemed to appreciate.

"It is possible that the current level of service could continue to be provided by removing the retaining wall and cantilevered dock feature, naturalizing the shoreline area to the extent possible and installing a gangway to [a] floating dock," Card noted in his report.

The municipality will be putting out an RFP to bring a consultant in to advise on the project, while Card will be distributing a questionnaire to the 34 waterfront property owners fronting Skin Lake to hear what they'd like to see done with the redevelopment.

He hopes to complete the planning phase during the spring so that construction can be done in September. The municipality has set aside \$95,000 for the project, although Card noted that amount was based on a like-for-like replacement of the launch, rather than what he was now proposing.

Mayor Carol Moffatt was pleased to hear



The Skin Lake boat launch will receive municipal attention this year. Submitted.

property owners in the area would have a say, but warned that just because they have a voice doesn't mean their every demand would be followed.

"We may not be able to address all the needs and wants. I feel like we need to set the table here – this is the first time we're working through this process and it could change from one landing to another," Moffatt said. "The purpose [through the

questionnaire] is to gather information that will allow for decisions to be made. It's not for people to say 'I want this in blue, that in green, and my own personalized parking space.'

Card said there will be eight questions on the survey, with an aim to finding out the extent of winter use of the site (snowmobiles and ice fishing); extent of day users versus lake residents or property

owners; if there's a need for additional parking; historical water level information; and identifying any other locations on the lake residents launch from that can be used during construction.

There are 27 municipal docks and landings across Algonquin Highlands slated for improvements through this program.

INFORMATION PAGE

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RECYCLING TIP OF THE WEEK

Plastic bags are recyclable if they are stretchy (milk bags and grocery bags). If they don't stretch (pouches and chip bags), they belong in the garbage. Bundle all bags in one bag and place with your paper recycling.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Furthermore, parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in these areas that prohibit the removal of snow will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

Family Day Weekend Closure

Minden Hills Council & Staff wish everyone a safe and happy Family Day weekend. Please enjoy the holiday responsibly and within the Provincial guidelines. Administration Office and services will be CLOSED on Monday, February 21st.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca for a list of available jobs and how to apply.

Riverwalk & Wetlands Boardwalk – Winter Usage

The Boardwalk is closed for the season; Logger's Crossing Bridge is cleared of snow regularly but is not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

Notice of Public Meeting

Please take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February, 24, 2022 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding proposed fee changes to its Fees and Charges By-law Cemetery Services Schedule G; and Community Services Programs & Facilities Schedule H; and the 2022 fees for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails, Schedule B. More information can be found on the Township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 24 – Regular Council Meeting

March 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Highlander news



Kate Butler tours people through Reid House at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. *File.*

Dysart passes budget

By Mike Baker

Dysart council approved its 2022 budget Feb. 11, passing a 3.84 per cent tax levy increase to local ratepayers this year.

In tabling a third draft, treasurer Barbara Swannell said staff had worked hard in recent weeks to reduce the bottom line and arrive at a number more aligned with council's expectations. A first draft in December called for a 7.56 per cent increase.

The new rate represents an increase of \$11.41 per \$100,000 of assessment for homeowners, with increases of \$16.92 for commercial and \$19.60 for industrial.

The typical residential property in Dysart was valued in 2016 at approximately \$193,000 by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the organization tasked with carrying out home assessments for tax purposes in Ontario. Using that total, the typical ratepayer in Dysart will see an increase of approximately \$22.10 on their tax bill in 2022.

Councillors John Smith and Walt McKechnie felt that number was high. McKechnie called on council to try and achieve a levy increase of less than three per cent, while Smith brought forward a few suggestions that would have drastically reduced the final number. His call to take \$200,000 from a "substantial" 2021 budget operating surplus and apply it directly to the tax levy, rather than see it transferred into municipal reserves, did not pass.

"That would have gotten us below a two per cent increase," Smith said of his idea. He then made a new suggestion, to take \$100,000 from the surplus and apply it to the levy, bringing the tax increase down to around 2.8 per cent, but his motion failed.

Deputy mayor Pat Kennedy successfully lobbied for a slight budget reduction earlier in the meeting. Originally, council had intended to complete an \$80,000

sidewalk project connecting the Gardens of Haliburton to Victoria Street using general tax funds, but given the municipality was sitting on around \$290,000 of unspent federal money through the Canada Community Build Fund (CCBF), he suggested a change. Using \$40,000 from the CCBF to subsidize the project, council was able to bring the budget increase down from the 4.22 per cent Swannell proposed at the beginning of the meeting.

Smith drew the ire of McKechnie when he said council could achieve further savings by looking closely at the Haliburton Highlands Museum budget. He wondered if the \$22,900 allocated to repairs at Reid House was a good investment.

"I certainly don't object to preserving some elements of our history, and we have a role as council in doing that, but if there's really support for the museum and things like the Reid House, where are the other sources of funding?" Smith said, pointing out the township currently picks up approximately 95 per cent of the museum's annual costs. In 2022, Dysart is projecting to spend just over \$207,000 maintaining services at the museum.

"I'm tired of listening to negative arguments about our wonderful museum," McKechnie retorted.

Council then went back on an earlier decision to not contribute to the chair lift fundraising program at the Haliburton Legion. Originally, the Legion had requested \$10,000 to support the project, which is slated to cost about \$105,000. Council denied that request Jan. 14, but decided last week to make a \$2,000 contribution.

All in, the municipality projects to spend \$18.49 million in 2022, with transportation services (\$6.2 million), protective services and transportation services (both \$3.7 million) representing the most significant expenditures.

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Minden Hills council unanimously supported the County's community safety and well-being plan Jan. 10. *Minden Hills YouTube channel.*

Minden approves safety and well-being plan

By Sam Gillett

Minden Hills council stamped its approval on the County's externally-developed community safety and well-being plan (CSWB) Jan 10.

Councillors Bob Carter and Pam Sayne said parts of the plan could be improved to better reflect the Minden community.

Carter said the report was full of "consultant speak," without enough specific plans for data collection on issues such as substance abuse or unemployment.

"I'm pretty disappointed in this," he said. "The issue I have is in the report itself, along with work plans and goals."

He pointed to Census data reporting 2,500 more people in Haliburton County than in 2016, about a 14 per cent bump to Minden's population.

Without action plans for things such as new doctors and increased housing, Carter said the report is "terrific from a consultant's perspective that could sit on a shelf, [but] not really a lot of action items that could help the County."

The report outlines various ideas for improving services such as mental health support and addictions counselling, including a permanent virtual care clinic.

Other action items include developing

employment and training placement programs for low-income groups and individuals.

A proposed police detachment board would include council members and the OPP detachment commander, along with one County-approved resident and a provincial appointee.

Sayne said that is too "top-heavy," and more community stakeholders should be included.

"This does not bring any kind of consultative factors to the local municipalities, which I think is really critical in understanding our full community," she said.

Including frontline workers, such as paramedics, would help the group "pivot, make decisions quickly and develop policies and programs that would help the community," Sayne said.

She and Carter said they supported the drafting of the plan other than their specific concerns.

Mayor Brent Devolin said his initial skepticism has turned into whole-hearted support.

He said the plan represents a "change philosophically from a reactive to a proactive stance to dealing with issues like housing and food insecurity."

Council unanimously supported the plan, with only Sayne voting against a subsequent motion of support for the seven-member detachment board.

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Libraries facing staff shortages

By Sam Gillett

The Haliburton County Public Library may not have enough staff to keep branches running regularly, or open at all, in coming weeks.

In a letter to the community on Feb. 10, library board chairperson Sally Howson said "The Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) is currently, like many businesses, experiencing staff shortages. This may result in the reduction in hours or closure at some branches on short notice."

At a Feb. 9 board meeting, CEO Christopher Stephenson said the library had 16 staff when he assumed the role in 2021. Now there are 10.

"I just need to be honest: we don't have enough people," he said. Administration staff have begun training in order to fill service gaps.

He said the shortage is due to recent retirements, staff pursuing post-secondary education, and leaves of absence.

"These layers have put stress on the group, and that has repercussions when we don't have a lot of on-call standing by," Stephenson said.

Patrons have called to voice frustrations over curbside pickup services.

"People are really upset right now, and they're upset at library workers and it's unfortunate," Stephenson told the board.

The library has requested County funding for two full-time positions and one part-time position in its 2022 budget.

"My focus on hiring is focused on reestablishing what we had years ago," Stephenson said. His goal, he added, is to have locals staffing each library, which would cut down on travel costs associated with library workers travelling between branches.

The library board suggested checking the HCPL website for updates before going to a library branch.

"Please know that HCPL staff will continue to do their utmost to provide services in a safe manner," Howson said.

Stephenson and Howson thanked library workers for their hard work and urged patrons to be patient.



The library is facing service cuts. *File*.

Branches could be reviewed

County warden Liz Danielsen said the announcement about staffing shortages means the board needs to "talk about the number of branches we've got."

She pointed to circulation levels in Highlands East, which are much lower than that of Dysart et al or Minden Hills.

"It was a challenge 12 years ago, people have dug in their heels and done the best they can," she said. "We need to face the fact that something needs to give."

With new methods of delivery available, such as the soon-to-launch book lockers in Dorset, Danielsen said there are options to consider, rather than eliminating services completely.

Fundraising committee restarts

A relatively small tax-paying population paired with a large service area poses challenges to HCPL funding levels.

The board discussed how restarting the library's fundraising and advocacy committee could be a way to raise extra funds and partner with the Friends of the

Haliburton County Public Library.

"We've got a budget that will get us through the year, if we get additional funds, that's great," said Danielsen.

The committee met in 2020, but it's been dormant since. Howson suggested the first step might be creating terms of reference.

"This is not for the faint of heart, and we don't have to expect that we're going to raise \$5 million in a couple of months," she said.

Stephenson suggested the committee would work on a "strategic approach" to fundraising, possibly involving long-term and ongoing projects.

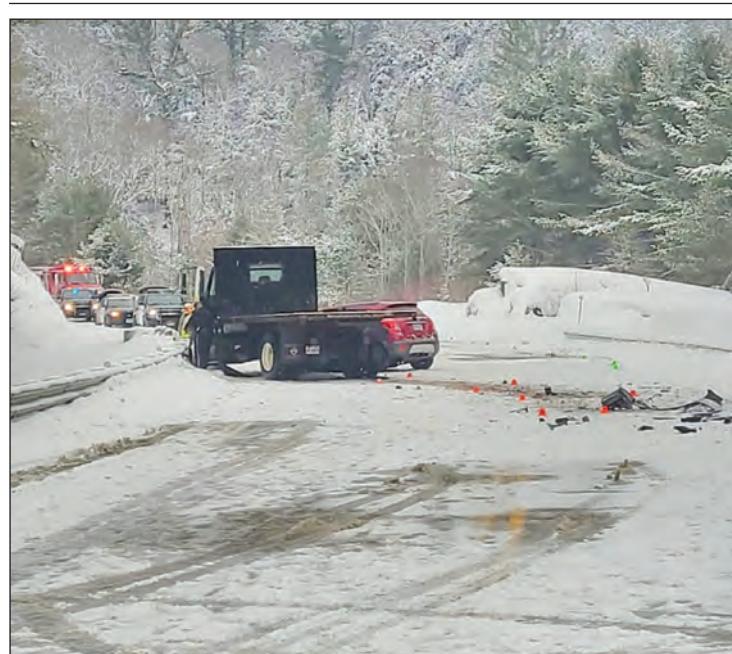
"From the libraries' perspective, I think perhaps we would want to make a plan for different avenues of fundraising. I do have ideas so I can bring those," he said.

Danielsen said a good first step might be publicizing areas the library could use help.

"I don't see any harm in letting the public know there are financial challenges associated with the library system," she said.

"You never know what might come in just from that."

The board will discuss the committee structure at a future meeting.



One dead after Dorset collision

One person was pronounced dead after a two-vehicle collision in Algonquin Highlands on Highway 35 on Feb. 11. At approximately 12:10 p.m., OPP officers responded to a crash involving a passenger vehicle and a flatbed truck near Shoe Lake Road south of Dorset.

Amy Gervais, 28 years of age, of Callander, south of North Bay, was pronounced deceased.

Highway 35 was closed for several hours as OPP investigated the accident. (Sam Gillett).

Highway 35 was closed in both directions Feb. 11 while police investigated a fatal accident. *Photo submitted by the Ontario Provincial Police*.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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Deep dive into new LTC beds

The fact Haliburton County is getting about 70 additional long-term care beds is very good news.

It means the waiting list for a long-term care bed in our community will get a little bit shorter.

It also means existing Extendicare Haliburton residents will benefit from a new state-of-the-art facility.

The head of Extendicare said it will be roomier, more comfortable and private, offer better activity areas and generally improve quality of life. They will be able to offer more restorative and palliative services.

Minister of Long-Term Care, Paul Calandra, had oodles of praise for local MPP Laurie Scott, whom he said has been lobbying on behalf of long-term care since 2018.

We don't doubt that the former nurse has been beating the drum.

And the announcement was indeed fortuitous for her as a June 2, 2022 provincial election looms.

In fact, Scott and her government have been making hay out of taxpayer money (let's not pretend this is provincial government money) for the last couple of

weeks locally.

There have been press conferences for the Haliburton Legion roof and Dysart et al rinks. There was a press release for agricultural societies. There was modernization money for the County and Minden Hills. There was cash for the Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace. And, on Feb. 15, more funding for Minden Hills' new gym at the rec centre.

Pardon the public for being a little cynical about the timing of said announcements.

Back to the Extendicare Haliburton one.

It's great that the province is giving money to long-term care. The fact they are handing that money to a private company is less welcome. For-profit nursing homes were criticized for their inability to protect their residents from COVID-19 and the Canadian military identified deplorable conditions. That said, the local home provides excellent care.

Were the money to have gone to Haliburton Highlands Health Services-operated homes at Highland Wood in Haliburton, or Hyland Crest in Minden, some in the community would have welcomed the news even more.

There was also talk about land for the new

build not having been identified yet. Extendicare's president and CAO Michael Guerriere said they have spots in mind. It will likely be in Dysart et al.

Warden Liz Daniels said something about the County working with Extendicare on finding suitable land. We just hope that help does not extend to taxpayers funding anything for a private, for-profit company.

In other words, one hopes the County does not offer land for free, or for \$1, but at market value if County land is on the table. Nor should they be quick to dismiss any fees or permits associated with the build. The private company has already gotten provincial tax dollars. It should not get County dollars too. We encourage co-operation by the County, but not financial incentives.

The politics aside, we welcome Extendicare's investment in our community and hope it provides many seniors with a place to go so they can comfortably live out their lives in their home county.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

Vaccines: the past meets the future

Even the most committed among us may need a booster pep talk. Here is yours: vaccine facts to have us marveling at the relative freedom from disease we are blessed with because of vaccination.

Young people take for granted that we don't live with measles, rubella, polio. Even chicken pox and HPV (the virus that causes some genital and oral cancers) have vaccines now. Canada's multi-year immunizations that start at two months of age are highly effective. They have reduced whooping cough by 87 per cent, measles by 99 per cent, mumps by 99 per cent, rubella by 99 per cent, diphtheria by 99 per cent and polio by 100 per cent in Canada (canada.ca/vaccines). And yes, they include plenty of boosters.

As we go through the pandemic in real time, we wait for the data to reveal how effective these needles are. It's not like there's a roadmap for us. With SARS-CoV-2, we got lucky. It turns out boosters are 90 per cent effective at preventing Omicron hospitalizations and 82 per cent effective at preventing emergency department and urgent care visits, as per three studies cited by the CDC that reviewed more than 10 million cases and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and deaths during the Delta and Omicron waves. Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization with Omicron fell to 57 per cent for those who had received their second dose more than six months earlier,

but a booster shot restored protection to 90 per cent.

Unvaccinated adults 65 and older who are infected with COVID-19 are 49 times more likely to be hospitalized than those who are vaccinated and have booster shots. For those 50 and older, unvaccinated adults are 45 times more likely to be hospitalized than those who are vaccinated and boosted.

More inspiring data that is being collected in real time shows that vaccination during pregnancy helps protect infants from COVID-19. Infants whose mothers received two doses of an mRNA vaccine during pregnancy are 61 per cent less likely to be admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 in the first six months of life, likely because they are born with their mother's antibodies. Vaccines received after 20 weeks gestation are 80 per cent effective at preventing infant hospitalizations from COVID-19 whereas vaccination during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy was 32 per cent effective.

Data shows boosters of Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines lost some effectiveness after four months but kept people out of hospital during the Omicron surge (87 per cent effective against ER visits and 91 per cent effectiveness against hospitalizations two months after boosters). Four months after boosters, effectiveness dropped to 66 per cent against ER visits and 78 per cent against hospitalizations (CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report). People with weakened immune systems

do not have the same durability of vaccine effectiveness and should get boosted three months after completing the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna, not five months and are eligible for a fourth shot now.

The mRNA vaccines have been researched since the 1970s and had received FDA approval in 2018, making this technology that was decades in the making perfectly situated for COVID-19 vaccines when the pandemic began (Watch YouTube "Why it Actually Took 50 Years to make COVID mRNA Vaccines, Sci Show").

With potential to complement mRNA vaccines and increase their durability, intranasal vaccines are currently in research trials. These nasally inhaled immunizations could build a local immune response in the nose and upper respiratory tract that works faster than a systemic response, shutting down SARS-CoV-2 before it replicates, sheds and transmits to others. Combining intramuscular injections that create central immunity (an IgG antibody response circulating in the blood) with nasal mucosal immunity (IgA antibody response in the nasal passages) would be "a one-two vaccine punch" that increases and lengthens protection by targeting two immunoglobulin immune responses.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Correction: Page 7 of last week's *Highlander* referenced pediatric vaccines. However, pediatric vaccine schedules are a series, starting at two months of age and providing regular boosters to ensure adequate immunity to the infectious diseases children are protected from.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Follow the science

Dear editor,

The Time for other health strategies letter penned by Darlene Buckingham (Feb. 10) prompted me to express my thanks to Dr. Nell Thomas for keeping *Highlander* readers current on the scientific basis of COVID-19 through her weekly Covid Corner column.

While Ms. Buckingham is entitled to her opinion, Dr. Thomas' information is evidence-based. Public health measures alone can't prevent illness from COVID-19, but in their absence many more Canadians would have become sick or died.

Vaccinations have been shown to dramatically reduce the likelihood of being admitted to hospital, requiring treatment in an ICU, or dying. As a physician, I have kept up with the literature on vaccines, and am unaware of any credible research suggesting vaccines "fuel viral mutations" as Ms. Buckingham posits.

Early treatment is now available for individuals at higher risk or not vaccinated. However, unless you live in a bubble and never interact with others, the best preventative strategy, backed by evidence-based science, is vaccinations. Wearing a mask, practising social distancing, and ensuring adequate ventilation are likewise worthwhile.

Ms. Buckingham is right that children have low mortality rates from the virus. They do, however, suffer from Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), which can have devastating effects on their hearts, lungs, kidneys, blood vessels, digestive systems, brains, skin and/or eyes. Most require hospital treatment and some care in a pediatric ICU. We still don't know the long-term effects but it's unlikely they're benign.

If Ms. Buckingham's other health strategies include hydroxychloroquine or ivermectin, evidence demonstrates them to be useless at best. Dr. Thomas made recommendations on how to develop a healthy immune system in her first column.

I'd encourage people to follow Dr. Thomas' advice: get vaccinated and practice public health measures. Follow the science and ignore sources of misinformation.

Keith Hay, MD, CM, FCFP

Sound journalism

Dear editor,

Editor Lisa Gervais squarely hit the mark with her Feb. 10 editorial and her meticulous article about the local "freedom convoy."

While some outlier voices are admittedly too extreme and unrepresentative to provide with a journalistic platform, the convoy protesters are not one such group.

They are an undeniable part of our community that the rest of us need to examine and understand. Ms. Gervais posed probing questions to trucker Scott Danilko; her article was the furthest thing from naive

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Guenter Horst sent this photo of a sunrise on Bobcaygeon Road.

or credulous. This is sound journalism.

In addition, shutting minority voices out of the mainstream media merely fuels the sense of exclusion that drives them.

When the arguments of such groups are absurd and their logic full of holes, we are all best served to see it for what it is in the disinfecting light of day.

**Kirk Makin
Koshlong Lake**

What have we become?

Dear editor,

I was astonished by the number of letters to the editor in the Feb. 10 *Highlander*, mostly about the trucking convoy.

I am a firm believer in free speech and the right to protest and demonstrate. However, this thing has taken on a life of its own and it has Canadians taking sides and fighting with each other for the right to protest.

What no one seems to be saying it where is Justin Trudeau? Transportation comes under the auspice of the federal jurisdiction and he has done absolutely nothing to either meet with a delegate or move them on. The mayors and the premier have their hands tied and are doing everything they can. Where is the help from the prime minister? Instead of taking sides, why aren't we screaming bloody blue murder to make him do his job?

The whole world is laughing at us and in the meantime all the auto companies have closed their doors because they can't build cars without parts that are stalled at the border. Both the companies and the workers have lost millions of dollars because of the truck blockade. In what country is that okay? Hasn't everybody lost enough money already for the past two years?

The top story every single day is the

truck blockade. In the meantime, there is probably going to be a war in the Ukraine, the Olympics are going on and nobody seems to be talking about our great athletes, the Queen is celebrating 70 years and no one seems to have noticed. What have we become?

While I'm at it, who allowed people to hand out anti-mask information at the school without the permission of the parents? What have we become?

**Marilynne Lesperance
Mindens Hills**

Our flip flop premier

Dear editor,

Whether one is a fan of our 'buck a beer' premiers or not, it is impossible to ignore him. And like Donald Trump it is almost impossible to predict what his next move might be.

He remained silent while truckers laid siege to downtown Ottawa, but when other truckers blocked passage at the Ambassador Bridge condemned that act and then proclaimed a State of Emergency and called upon police forces (mainly OPP) to clear the blockade.

He lavished praise on health care workers, calling them heroes, but still refuses to cancel his Bill 124 that limits their pay increases to one per cent - even as the yearly rate of inflation hit 5.2 per cent in December.

Regarding the long-term care problems, he said that he would build an iron ring around them and "won't spare a penny to keep our seniors safe" but after the death of over 4,200 seniors in long-term care facilities, he has still not addressed the main problem - namely the lack of nurses.

He knows that vaccines are the best way

of fighting the virus and the screening of vaccine status at restaurants, pubs, gyms and sporting events was a strong way to encourage the unvaxed to get the jab, but has now decided to eliminate that requirement on March 1. This change was not in response to requests from doctors or restaurant owners, but seemed to be a response to demands from truck protesters.

Yes, there are bound to be many questionable decisions and about-faces between now and June 2 when Ontarians go to the polls. It will be fun to watch and try to make sense of those decisions.

**Dennis Choptiany
Koshlong Lake**

How to think versus what to think

Dear editor,

We wish to commend you on your journalistic integrity concerning your recent coverage of the so-called local "Freedom Convoy".

We understand that it is your duty to report on all the important news of the day. Your probing interview questions provided every opportunity for the protestor to distill and clearly articulate his motivations, while at the same time assessing the factual basis behind the opinions, or the lack thereof.

In doing so you have balanced providing a voice for a differing opinion while avoiding spreading misinformation. The column by Lisa Gervais demonstrates critical thinking skills we all should strive to emulate. How to think rather than what to think. Keep up the good work.

**Steve and Brenda Leis
West Guilford**

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Programming back on at Minden recreation centre

By Lisa Gervais

It's a Thursday morning at the Minden rec centre and brothers Scott and Daryl Moore are on one of four badminton courts while people walk on the elevated track above them.

Elsewhere in the facility, a group of guys are on the ice for shinny.

Daryl said he recently retired.

"So, this is an activity I can get out and play, get some exercise. I find the game invigorating." He hadn't played for years, since he was in high school, but is loving the return to the courts.

Scott added, "we're out here trying to get exercise in. I've had some health issues. So, for me, it's kind of a purpose in my life."

He said most Thursday mornings, eight to 10 people come out during his 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. time slot.

His wife plays and his daughter comes out occasionally "so from our perspective it's great."

Scott said it's also a wonderful facility.

Minden Hills community development coordinator Elisha Weiss is checking pre-registered people in. She asks to see their vaccination passport via QR code on their phone and takes their payment.

She said the facility reopened Jan. 31 after provincial restrictions eased.

They are open to badminton, pickleball, basketball, table tennis, the walking track and shinny. Most of the programming is weekdays, although table tennis is Monday nights from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

"Once we get more staff positions hired, we'll be able to offer more evenings and weekend programming which will be great for all of the working folk," she said.

Weiss added everything is a little bit slow at the moment. "Even pickleball, before the shutdown it was getting very busy. I don't know if it's just the time of year. Definitely, basketball, we've had only a few participants out for that. Really, it would be just nice to see all the programs nice and full. Like, even the shinny today, we only have six or seven."

She said people also don't like travelling in winter weather, which she can't blame them for.

They're actively recruiting shinny players, including from out-of-town.

Weiss said, "The doors are open. So, people just have to



Scott Moore and Nancy Norris team up for a game of badminton. Photo by Lisa Gervais

bring their vaccine QR codes, and ID. Right now, we're still offering just day passes but hopefully by September we'll be able to offer memberships."

The fitness centre is still empty but the township is hoping that by the end of March it will be available, "So that will be really exciting. I know a lot of people are really looking forward to that," Weiss said.

Sports

- Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. (in one-hour time slots)
- Basketball: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Badminton: Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon
- Table tennis: Monday 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- All are \$5 adult and \$3 youth
- Walking track: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No cost
- See the website for ice sports

See mindenhills.ca/recreation/ for more information.

To sign up, contact Elisha at 705-286-1936 or eweiss@mindenhillsc.ca



Long-time Dorset resident and Lions Club member Esther Fortney turned 100 Feb. 12. Her friend John Shepherd organized a surprise trip to visit her at a Whitby retirement home on the big day. Photo submitted by Atria The Court at Pringle Creek. (Sam Gillett).

Active living

Martial arts 'really great form of exercise'

By Lisa Gervais

Kelly Outram was seven when he took a karate class for the first time. Self-described as "lanky with big glasses and a girl's name," he was being bullied at school.

"So, I had a rough time," the owner of K.O. Martial Arts said. "As soon as I started learning karate, and learned to push back when you're pushed, after once or twice, people start to leave you alone."

But it wasn't just about "smashing and bashing." He discovered he really enjoyed the discipline.

He continued until his early teens when his teacher moved away. From there, he played hockey, football and rugby "to get my ya-ya's out through my teenage years."

However, he returned to martial arts at 19. At the time, he was living in the Highlands in the summer, where he worked as an arborist but would move to the city in the winters and practice some sort of martial arts.

He moved back full-time in 2018, working with his brother as Outram Tree Solutions. However, his side hustle became teaching martial arts. Just prior to the pandemic, and since then when it has been allowed, he has taught classes at various venues in Haliburton village. His repertoire has included self defense and combat sports, striking, grappling, mindfulness and body awareness, Tai Chi and Qi Gong.

At the moment, he is teaching Tai Chi at his house on South Lake Road Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. but said the cold has kept people away from the outdoor, socially-distanced classes.

He said COVID has been a challenge. For example, he had planned a Minden launch for Jan. 8 but had to cancel that after the province locked things down.

However, he said the tree work is his "bread job. I'm not doing the martial arts to keep myself fed. I would have been starving for the last two years."

Martial arts, though, has always been his



Kelly Outram of K.O. Martial Arts stretches before a workout. Photo by Brad Brown of Upside Brown Productions.

passion. He really reconnected with it after being diagnosed with a bipolar disorder in his late teens, early 20s.

"I had a little spurt with that where I didn't know what to do about it. It was a rough time for a year or so. I got on medication for a while and that straightened me out for a while. Then I realized if I just kept myself together, if I could exercise, sleep well, eat properly, I didn't need to be medicated. I was concerned it (the medication) was going to destroy my liver by the time I was 50. As long as I stay consistent with my training, I'm stable."

With mental health taking a toll throughout the pandemic, it's a practice he wants to share. Ideally, he would like to work with kids but anyone 16-45.

"It's a really nice practice, really great form of exercise, it's interactive, it's a lot of fun. It sure beats pumping iron which gets pretty boring over time I find."

He believes a practice resonates with young rural kids, who need activity but have to spend six hours a day in school.

"Something like this where they can just get their ya-ya out is extremely good."

He added, "to me, the greatest takeaway

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The Huskies

Cochrane makes big impact with Dogs

By Mike Baker

Changing teams mid-season can be a daunting process for even the most seasoned professional, but Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Jonah Cochrane has taken the experience in stride, confident in his abilities to make an impact with his new club.

Cochrane was acquired by the Huskies, alongside forwards Cameron Kosurko and Payton Schaly, in a trade with the Wellington Dukes in November. Since then, he's played 19 games with the blue and white, contributing two goals and an assist from the blueline.

Cochrane admitted the deal came out of left field, surprising all three players. Months later, he said it was the best thing that could have happened for his hockey career.

"Walking into that locker room day one, there was a different feel. The boys were all very close, and welcomed us in right away. The coaching has been top notch. What they bring to the table is the best in the league," Cochrane said. "I couldn't be happier where I am right now."

Cochrane is billeting with Kim and Kevin Hodgkinson in Gelert, alongside teammate Sam Solarino. He loves the "small country vibe" that Haliburton County provides, and said it reminds him of home.

Growing up in Norfolk County, Cochrane said he learned to skate at three, and by the time he was five he was playing tyke

for his hometown Simcoe Warriors. Then a forward, his impressive play in that first year earned him a spot on the novice team the following season.

"That team ended up winning national and international silver sticks, and we were deemed to be one of the best teams in all of North America," Cochrane said.

Always looking to progress, he transferred to the Brantford 99ers AAA program. He spent nine years with the organization, culminating in an impressive 2019/20 season when, having been moulded into an offensive defenceman, he put up 34 points in 38 games as a 16-year-old on the U18 team.

He was drafted by the Kingston Frontenacs in the 12th round of the 2019 OHL draft, and remains in contact with the team. This summer, after a brief stint playing with the Waterloo Siskins of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, Cochrane had aspirations of cracking the OHL club's roster, but a pulled groin days before the summer prospects camp ended those hopes.

After grabbing the game-winner in the Huskies' return to OJHL action in Lindsay Feb. 4, Cochrane said he's laser-focused on finishing this season with a bang and helping his team wherever he can. In recent games, that has meant filling in at forward with injuries and suspension limiting options.

"Whatever it takes to win, I'm here for



Huskies D-man Jonah Cochrane said his team has what it takes to defy expectations and challenge for a championship this season. Photo by Paul Mauceri.

the boys," Cochrane said. "The goal, not just for myself, but for the entire team is to take over the league by winning everything. We want to play for the Dudley Hewitt (provincial) championship. We want to play for the Centennial Cup (national championship)."

"It would be pretty special for us to show that, even as a new team in the league, we can be the best, and can't be taken lightly. I know we have the best team in the league. It's on us now the rest of the season to show it."

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Left: Lucas Marshall defends a Toronto Patriots attack. Right: Christian Linton and Noah Van Vliet celebrate the Huskies' 3-1 win over the Patriots. Photos by Sam Gillett.

Team finding form again after shutdown

By Sam Gillett

Huskies Coach Ryan Ramsay said recent performances show the squad's form suffered since COVID-19 rules halted the league.

"Unfortunately, we were on a good streak there before the break," he said. "I don't think we're playing great hockey, I think we're playing pretty good hockey."

However, the Huskies returned to winning ways after a tough loss Feb. 7 with a 3-1 win over a feisty Toronto Patriots squad Feb. 11.

Less than three minutes from puck drop, Richardson slotted the Huskies' first goal, assisted by Isaac Sooklal and Sam Solarino.

New signing Simon Rose anchored the blue line, getting a few shots on net as the Dogs dominated first-period possession.

Christian Stevens followed Richardson's effort, assisted by stars Oliver Tarr and Patrick Saini.

While the Patriots turned up the heat, the

Huskies didn't back down. "The Patriots try to play an aggressive, in your face game," Ramsay said.

The deadly trio of Tarr, Saini and Stevens combined again early in the third for another Stevens' goal, flicking the puck low into the bottom corner.

The Patriots responded with a power play goal minutes from the final buzzer, Hayes McKay slotted home a shot assisted by Eric Bonsteel and Johnathon Mead.

Game-winner Stevens said the squad played well, especially as the game became more heated as it wore on.

"I tend to see it as playoff hockey," Stevens said. "It's good to have some of these games early in the season."

Goalie Christian Linton said he was proud of how the team shut their opponents down.

"We set the trap for them, minimized their scoring chances and cruised to victory," Linton said. He had a stellar showing between the pipes, fending off an increasingly desperate Patriots' squad as the

chippy game came to a close.

"It feels good, it's always good to come away with the two points," he said. "It's awesome, we're going to build off it, really get on a run here."

Revenge on the road

The Huskies kept a clean sheet against fierce rivals the Toronto Jr Canadiens in a 2-0 victory Feb. 12. It was a sweet victory for a squad beaten by the Canadiens early in February.

Lucas Stevenson scored early in the first period, assisted by Payton Schaly and Jack Staniland.

After a stalemate second period, the Canadiens pulled their goalie in an attempt to get back into the game. Rose pounced on the empty net and slid the puck home. It cemented a strong Huskies victory with the squad outshot by the Canadiens. Goalie Christian Cicigoi continued the Huskies defensive tradition, snatching 36 saves to

shut out the southern team.

The Dogs fell 4-3 against Caledon Feb. 16 bringing the two-game win streak to a close. Caledon scored three in quick succession in the second period. The Huskies rallied, with Rose scoring a first goal late in the second period. Payton Schaly bulged the net early in the third, followed by a remarkable Christian Stevens "Michigan" goal - flicking the puck up on the blade of his stick and curling it into the net from behind the goalie - less than a minute later. Caledon prevailed in a tense overtime with Ethan Tierman slotting the winner home. "The players responded well, to come back to make it 3-3," Ramsay said. He added that the team might have been over-confident facing off against the lower-ranked team. "It shouldn't have gone like that," he said.

The Huskies played Feb. 16 in Wellington, before travelling to Trenton Feb. 18. They host Wellington at home Feb. 19 and play the Lindsay Muskies Feb. 21.

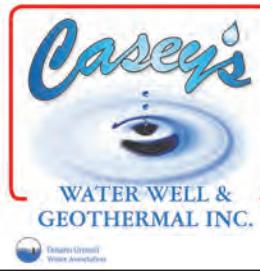
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The Storm U9 team celebrates a win against the South Muskoka Whalers. Photos by Sam Gillett.



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A Storm player flies past Muskoka's defence.



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FEBRUARY 9

U13 REP vs. Woodville 5-5 T

FEBRUARY 11

U11 REP vs. Ennismore 5-4 L

FEBRUARY 12

U11 LL vs. South Muskoka 10-0 L
U9 LL vs. South Muskoka 11-1 W
U11 AE vs. Lindsay 6-0 L

U11 REP vs. Ennismore 3-3 T

U9 REP vs. Ennismore 8-2 L

U13 LL vs. Huntsville 2-1 W

U18 REP vs. Millbrook 5-1 W

FEBRUARY 13

U13 REP vs. Millbrook 5-0 L
U13 LL vs. Parry Sound 4-4 T
U11 AE vs. Brock 4-2 W
U11 REP vs. Brock 5-3 W

HOME OF THE HIGHLAND *STORM*

Storm U9 impresses in win on big rink

Saturday, Feb. 12 saw the first matchup of the year between the U9 Highland Storm and the South Muskoka Whalers.

A close first period was dominated by strong defensive play. Each team kept scoring chances to a minimum as the two teams worked to solve the other. The fast-paced back-and-forth saw quick break outs and strong passing. Everett Bjelis opened the scoring for the Storm on a great break-out, and was able to battle his way up the ice.

The second period saw a breakthrough by the Storm led by defenceman Jaxon

Demerchant. Channelling his inner Bobby Orr, Jaxon led the offensive charge with five goals and two assists in the contest. Adding to the tally, Everett was able to complete a hat trick, with Wyatt Braun, Nolan Frybort and Grayson Thomas adding to the total.

The shorthanded defence of the Storm were able to hold the line, aided by the great back-checking support of the forward group. In addition to Jaxon and Nolan, Beau Gilmour added several assists of his own, while shutting down the opposing offence. The group worked hard in front

of goaltender Mason Bishop, who only allowed a single goal in the contest.

The coaching staff wanted to command the group in only their second match on full ice. The group is adjusting to the larger surface, and the introduction of off-sides, faster than they could have hoped. The Storm will be back in action next Saturday (Feb. 19) facing the Huntsville Mainstreet Dental Group for their first game in the new S.G. Nesbitt arena. (*Submitted*).



REP STARS



Jaxon Demerchant - An offensive defenseman that contributed large to the team goal total. Noticeably effective all over the ice.



Everett Bjelis - This speedy center pushed back the opposing squad all game long while firing in some clutch goals.



Beau Gilmour - This defensive stalwart shut the competition down from the first whistle. He also was critical in assisting a number of the goals.

The Highlander named finalist in Better Newspapers Competition

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- Best Sports Section
- Feature Writing
- Best Use of Colour

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"Wow! This is more than a magazine, it's a coffee table book!"
Terry, Haliburton

"Just wanted to let you know that I came across your magazine and I was so impressed...the content was really solid. Keep up the great work."
Dennis, Peterborough

"It's contemporary, has great articles on many different and interesting topics, tasteful advertising, great layouts and photography. Simply put, very, very classy!"
Shelley, Haliburton

"This magazine is too good to be true! I took a handful (sorry!) off the shelf and will pass them to all my girlfriends."
Mary, Haliburton

Highlander arts

Casting Highlanders young and old

By Sam Gillett

Three years ago, Duncan Evans-Fockler strode onto the stage as Michael Banks, a kid soon adventuring with the umbrella-wielding, enigmatic Mary Poppins.

Through months of rehearsals, the Grade 5 student said his favourite part was the dances.

"First we had to get the basics of the dance, then we had to put it all together," he said.

"It was really fun."

According to Scot Denton, the Highlands Summer Festival's (HSF) artistic producer, Evans-Fockler shone on stage alongside Tate Itani Smith who played his sister Jane.

Evans-Fockler wants to audition for the role of Kurt in this year's *The Sound of Music* production.

The Summer Festival is hosting auditions Feb. 26 and 27.

Denton encouraged kids to try out, no matter their experience level.

"They don't have to be opera singers, they're kids. They'll come and learn it, and kids learn fast," he said.

From his experience, children of all personalities can shine on stage.

"Sometimes the shyest people get into rehearsal and on stage and it's very liberating. It's not just the outgoing kids who should be thinking about theatre as a hobby or vocation," he said.

How can you tell if your kid might fit the bill? "Just see if your child wants to come," Denton said.

For *The Sound of Music*, the HSF is casting Friedrich von Trapp, treble, 14, Louisa von Trapp, soprano, 13, Kurt von Trapp, treble, 10, Brigitta von Trapp, soprano, nine, Marta von Trapp, soprano, seven and Gretl von Trapp, soprano, six. Those auditioning will sing for HSF production team members.

"All they have to do is come sing happy birthday to us and we'll know," Denton said.

There are multiple roles for adults available too, from the grumpy baritone Captain von Trapp to the star of the show, Maria.

The Importance of Being Earnest still has one role open, as well as a third



Duncan Evans-Fockler in the HSF's 2019 version of Mary Poppins. Submitted.

performance, *Every Brilliant Thing*.

Denton said the festival is excited at the possibility of a full season after nearly three full years of pandemic-related cancellations or postponements.

"We're going to have a good time," he

said. "It's going to be amazing to get back to what we do."

For more information and to book an audition time, call Betty Mills: 705-457-1354



Left: 1st: "Coastline" by Hana Curtis. Middle: 2nd: "Under the fading sun" by Amin Shivji. Right: 3rd: "Autumnal Landscape with Reflections" by Julie Jones. Submitted.

Landscape time at the Haliburton Highlands camera club

The Haliburton Highlands Camera Club has announced the winners in its landscape category.

The club continues to be active online and welcomes photography enthusiasts of all experience levels.

Bimonthly competitions are a big part

of the club and are designed to challenge members' photography skills.

For 2022, the assigned topics are black and white, tools of the trade, patterns in nature, fill the frame, fog, haze and rain and nature.

For each competition, there is also a

pictorial category where members can submit images of any topic.

The competitions are judged by experienced photographers from other camera clubs in Ontario.

Visitors are welcome to attend one of their monthly Zoom meetings to see

what it's all about. For schedules and to view all competition images visit highlandscameraclub.ca.

You can also follow the club on Facebook. (*Lisa Gervais*).

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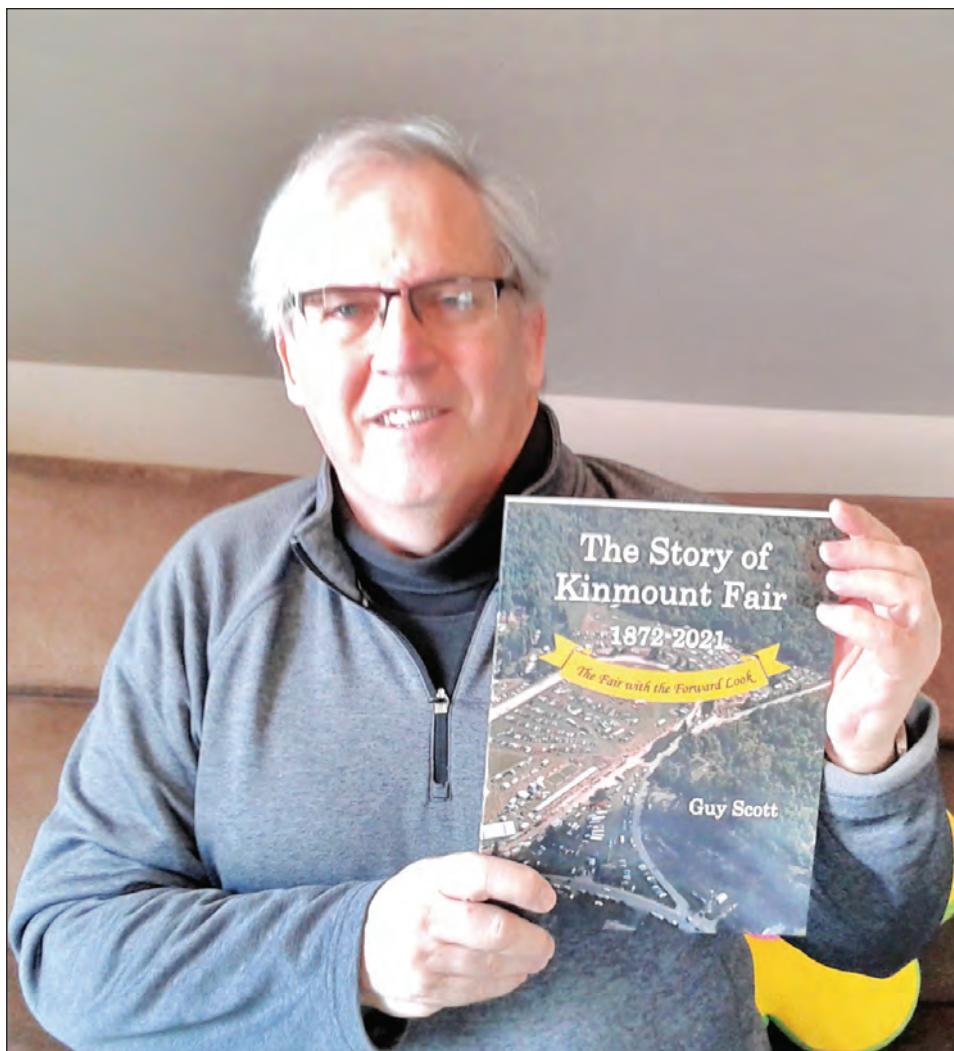
PHOTO CONTEST

The Highlander is looking for your best photos for inclusion in this year's The Highlander Handbook.

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submissions will be printed on this year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person. Deadline April 11, 2022 by 5 p.m. Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to editor@thehighlander.ca

Highlander agriculture



Author Guy Scott has published his latest book, recounting the 150-year history of the Kinmount Fair. Submitted.

The fun of the fair

By Mike Baker

Local historian Guy Scott has released a new book commemorating 150 years of the Kinmount Fair.

Running annually since 1872, the fair has been a summertime staple in the community for generations. Hundreds of Haliburton-area residents typically attend, making the Kinmount Fair one of the largest, most anticipated events of the season. It's held over the Labour Day long weekend.

Wanting to make a big splash of its 150th anniversary, Scott published *The Story of the Kinmount Fair* in January, cramming dozens of first-hand stories, fun facts and photographs into its pages.

"I've been going to the fair every year of my life. It's a major part of our history as a community," Scott said. "At one time, almost every township in our area had an agricultural fair: Gooderham, Highland Grove, Haliburton, Coboconk, but over the years they've disappeared, while the Kinmount fair has held on."

He's not exactly sure why or how Kinmount's agricultural fair has endured. He noted the community isn't particularly known for farming.

"The story goes, how do you make a million dollars farming in Kinmount? You start with \$2 million," Scott said.

He took an active role with the fair organizing committee in the 1980s and never looked back. While researching his book, he relived some of the "glory years,"

when he helped organize mud wrestling matches, fishing derbies, and air shows.

The mud wrestling, in particular, caused quite a stir back in 1985, Scott remembered.

"We were looking for a bit of a boost on the Friday, so we brought in the Chicago Knockers all-girl mud wrestlers. It didn't go over well with some people," he said. "One little old lady caught me afterwards and she said 'I've been going to your fair every year in my life, and that's the end of it. I'm not going to see no strip show at the Kinmount Fair'."

Photographs from that event, and dozens of others, are included in the book.

"It's a lot of nostalgia, but remembering our history, too," he said.

The book is available at Kinmount Artisans Marketplace. Since its release, Scott estimates he's sold around 50 copies.

With the event being cancelled the last two years due to the pandemic, Scott said he's hopeful things will be "back to normal" in 2022. There are plans to hold a special celebration in honour of the sesquicentennial.

"I'm just excited it's going to be back. All the pictures I've seen in writing my book, it's people smiling and kids having fun. That's what we want to do with our fair, make it exciting. We want it to be a worthwhile attendance," Scott said. "As musician Propter Hawk says in her song, 'I gotta get myself back to the Kinmount Fair'. To me, that says it all. Remember the good times, and let's do them again."

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2020031:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front 1055 Raccoon Lane located within Lot 9, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. **File No. PLSRA2020045:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1052 Beverley Lane located Lot 24, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2020061:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1074 McCrackens Lane located within Lot 11, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden
4. **File No. PLSRA2021005:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1233 U of T Survey Camp Road located within Lot 10, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
5. **File No. PLSRA2021008:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-031-000-43590-0000 on McMullen Lane located within Lot 29, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden
6. **File No. PLSRA2021009:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-031-000-43560-0000 on McMullen Lane located within Lot 29, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Minden
7. **File No. PLSRA2021054:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-032-000-45110-000 on Echo Lane within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
8. **File No. PLSRA2021055:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of vacant lands having Roll Number 4616-032-000-45100-000 on Echo Lane within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
9. **File No. PLSRA2021056:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1011 Echo Lane located within Lot 31, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden
10. **File No. PLSRA2021057:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Beaver Lake, lying in front of 1142 Triangle Trail located within Lot 21, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
11. **File No. PLSRA2021073:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1534 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 8, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Minden
12. **File No. PLSRA2021074:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Little Canning Lake, lying in front of 1096 Wharf Lane located within Lot 7, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhill.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
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Highlander education

Brohman speaks out against restrictions

By Mike Baker

After TLDSB superintendent Kim Williams said low-contact extracurriculars could resume board-wide as of Feb. 7, Haliburton area school board trustee Gary Brohman voiced his frustration over the “vague” updates presented to the board, asking when a full scope of after-school activities will be made available to students.

Brohman said other boards in Ontario had already given the green light for all extracurriculars to start, and wondered why a similar decision hadn’t yet come down at TLDSB.

Director of Education Wes Hahn said he and his team are in constant communication with the various public health units across the board’s jurisdiction, and all decisions are funneled through them.

“We can’t just go and do what we want. We’d love to open it up... But we require [public health] approval before we do that,” he said. “It’s all community-based. Because some of the cases are higher in some [of our] communities, we’re not able to move forward. Some communities [elsewhere] have lower cases, so they are allowed. That’s just how it is.”

Hahn said he expects that all inter-school competition will be opened up at some point before the end of the current school year, but wasn’t sure when multi-school events would be back.

Brohman wasn’t a fan of Hahn’s answer.

“This is just so nebulous to the public and the kids. The kids are waiting with such anxiety. I’m frustrated, and the kids are frustrated,” Brohman said. “It’s always, in Ontario, about the future ... What’s the number we need [for things to come back]. Is there some guy or lady in a white shirt somewhere saying, ‘well, I guess today we can go’ ... I just don’t get it.”

Enrollment up

Enrollment across TLDSB is up around 3.75 per cent this year, with 480 new students at the elementary level and 140 at the secondary level. Superintendent of business services, Tim Ellis, said these numbers were in line with board projections.

Providing a first quarter financial update, Ellis said total revenues were up with the board set to receive \$232.2 million to carry out its operations this year, an increase from \$225.4 million in 2020/21. Most of this money has been earmarked for COVID-19 related relief, he noted, with extra supports for virtual learning staff, transportation and cleaning.

Given the increased costs since the onset of the pandemic, Brohman asked if there was any concern over school boards going bankrupt. Superintendent of learning Paul Goldring noted that while he’s sure there’s some financial concerns at the ministry, there was no reason to believe the Ontario public school system was in trouble.



Haliburton area trustee Gary Brohman pushed for extracurriculars to return to schools at a TLDSB board meeting Feb. 8. File.

Capital projects

There are several planned enhancements for schools across Haliburton County over the next five years, with TLDSB releasing details of its long-term capital plan Feb. 8.

Just over \$6.6 million will be invested at the Highlands’ five elementary schools and one high school.

A \$900,000 project to replace windows and exterior doors at Archie Stouffer will be completed this year, while \$740,000 will be

spent at Cardiff Elementary on classroom and electrical system upgrades. J.D. Hodgson is getting \$1.7 million to upgrade classrooms and replace washrooms.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School will receive \$450,000 next year to replace washrooms, while a \$1 million classroom upgrade is planned at Archie Stouffer in 2024. Around \$950,000 will be spent in 2024 and 2025 to install LED lighting at all area schools.

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Highlander education

Students protest COVID mandates outside HHSS

By Sam Gillett

Approximately 20 high school students and parents protested vaccine mandates and masking rules outside Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Feb. 11.

"We're trying to get things back open and get our school opened up," said student Darian Maddock.

Maddock said he supported vaccinations and masking but was frustrated with how COVID-19 rules have disrupted student life.

Spencer Upton, a student who waved a Canadian flag on top of the train alongside County Road 21, said, "we're at a school, not a senior's home or doctor's. I feel we don't need a mask here."

Multiple peer-reviewed studies report masks help to reduce transmission of a number of air-borne illnesses such as COVID-19.

The protest was part of an Ontario-wide school walkout. The gathering in Haliburton was joined by adults, some of whom were parents of HHSS students.

Parent Robyn Shaw said she attended because she is alarmed by rules such as vaccination certificates that she said are prejudiced against people who aren't vaccinated. Premier Doug Ford said on Feb. 14 that vaccine passports will be eliminated as of March 1.

"That terrifies me. I just thought if Canada couldn't fight off what was happening, we were never going to be able to," she said.

She said she wants Canadians to be able to choose to be vaccinated or not without facing restrictions.

"I want people to be able to choose what's right for them," she said.

Data from the HKPR health unit shows vaccines, and especially a third booster shot, are a key reason why cases and hospitalizations from COVID-19 are declining.



A group of students and adults call for an end to public health measures. Photo by Sam Gillett.

"Certainly, data from published studies, data from provincial numbers and local data emphasize the role vaccination has in preventing serious illness," chief medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking said.

Since July 1, 41.9 per cent of people admitted to intensive care units with COVID-19 have been unvaccinated. Since the number of vaccinated people is nearly nine times larger than the population of unvaccinated people, there is a far larger proportion of unvaccinated individuals requiring urgent care for COVID-19 than those who are vaccinated across Canada.

The HHSS protest occurred in tandem with ongoing rallies in Ottawa and other

major cities, blockades in key border crossings such as Windsor (now disbanded) and even 'freedom convoy' rallies in Haliburton County.

A Facebook page, Haliburton Freedom Rally, has garnered more than 1,500 follows. It's unclear what percentage of the group resides in Haliburton County. Members of the group promoted two rallies in Minden as well as the Feb. 11 school event. No incidents have been reported at these events.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau enacted the Emergencies Act for the first time in Canada's history Feb. 14. He said the decision, to be voted on by the House of

Commons and Senate, aims to "supplement provincial and territorial capacity to address the blockades and occupations."

On Feb. 13, Ontario premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency in the province, stating "it is illegal and punishable to block and impede the movement of goods, people and services along with critical infrastructure."

Shaw said the movement is about peace and hope, along with the message of "freedom of choice."

"Who cares whoever has started this convoy," she said. "This is people like you, and me, and our parents and our sisters and our brothers fighting for our rights."

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Highlander health

Ontario accelerates pandemic opening plan

By Sam Gillett

Starting Feb. 17, Ontario will increase gathering limits and remove capacity limits at places where vaccination certificates are required.

On March 1, businesses won't be obligated to check proof of vaccination certificates though mask-wearing will continue to be enforced.

"Given how well Ontario has done in the Omicron wave we are able to fast track our reopening plan," said Premier Doug Ford in an Oct. 14 press release. "This is great news and a sign of just how far we've come together in our fight against the virus. While we aren't out of the woods just yet we are moving in the right direction."

In a Feb. 14 press conference, Ford insisted the acceleration of the reopening plan was "despite" the ongoing anti-mandate protests.

Ford and Christine Elliott, deputy premier and minister of health said declining case rates and hospitalization numbers are behind the decision.

"Thanks to the province's high vaccination rates and the continued sacrifices of Ontarians, we are now in a position where we can move forward in our plan earlier than anticipated," said Elliott. "With hospitalizations and ICU admissions continuing to decline, we are committed to maintaining a gradual and cautious approach to protect our hospital capacity and ensure patients can access the care they need when they need it."

The HKPR health unit reported similarly optimistic trends in recent weeks.

"We are seeing multiple indicators that things are improving and that COVID-19 transmission is decreasing," said chief medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

As of Feb. 14, HKPR COVID testing, now limited to high-risk people and settings, showed a case rate of 114 cases per 100,000 people, lower than over 500 cases per 100,000 people in early January.



Masking will be required in indoor spaces past Mar. 1. *File.*

Rundown of reopening

Effective Feb. 17 Ontario will further ease public health measures, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors.

Removing capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to:

- Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities.
- Non-spectator areas of sports and

recreational fitness facilities, including gyms and cinemas.

- Meeting and event spaces, including conference or convention centres.
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments.
- Indoor areas of settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Allowing 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity at sports arenas, concerts venues and theatres.
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- Increasing capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies to the number of people who can maintain two-metre physical distance. Capacity limits are removed if the location opts-in to use proof of vaccination or outdoors.
- Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two-metre physical distance.

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Highlander environment

Land Between protects birds and bees

By Sam Gillett

The Land Between is using antennas, blacklight and microchips to monitor a fragile part of Haliburton's ecosystem.

In September, the conservation organization installed the first of three Motus towers.

"Each tower can track birds leaving and arriving and moving within 20 kilometers of the tower," said Land Between founder and CEO Leora Berman.

Minute chips, fixed onto the creatures like a miniature backpack, ping the tower and provide organizations such as Berman's valuable insights into population trends.

"Knowing which habitat birds are using and what area birds rely on helps us conserve those areas," she said.

One more tower will be installed in 2022, casting a wider net over the Highlands. It's an area with sparse coverage compared to the rest of the bioregion that spans southern Ontario from Georgian Bay to the Ottawa Valley.

Each tower is nearly \$10,000, and they'll be installed at the Haliburton Forest, Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park and near the Tory Hill area. Berman expects to start collecting data this spring.

"The data that they bring in is worth so many legs in the field," she said.

Berman said the towers will be especially helpful in tracking certain at-risk birds such

as Nightjars. Two sub-species, the Common Nighthawk and Eastern Whip-poor-will are at-risk in Ontario.

Developing a clear idea of the threat to these species involves investigating their food source: mosquitos, black flies and other small insects.

Berman and volunteers have begun insect biomass sampling across Haliburton. That involves coordinating with property owners to sample for insects in different locations.

Armed with a bucket of sugar water, a little soap and a blacklight, the Land Between ventures out during insect season in the spring and fall. They put the filter in the middle of a habitat, for example, a lawn or a forest, to find out "who's there" in different locations around Haliburton.

While data isn't sufficient for final analysis yet, it's showing trends that are worrying.

"Already we've seen the percentage of insects are significantly lower. Almost nil in typical residential areas," she said.

Mosquito spraying and the removal of natural vegetation are often to blame. A decline in insects or native vegetation means Nightjars and many songbirds go hungry. "Because we're removing the base of the whole food web we're seeing a massive decline," she said.

The decline of bird species such as the Common Nighthawk or Bank Swallow and their food sources of insects such as

mosquitos and blackflies, won't just mean a change to common sights and sounds of the Highlands.

"There is a cascading effect up the food chain," Berman said. "When there are lots of insects, birds are happy, the fish are happy and nature is happy."

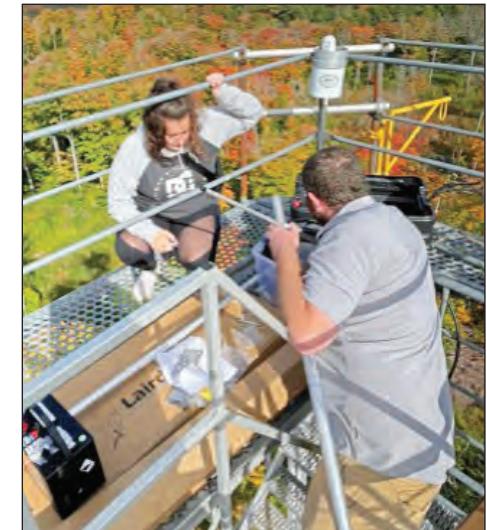
It could mean decreased pest control, with fewer birds around to eat invasive species such as Gypsy Moths or spruce budworms that can defoliate forests. It also poses a risk to the regeneration of vegetation and natural areas since birds carry and disperse seeds. The decline in seed dispersal then affects the availability of deer feed.

Creating habitats

Landowners have a big role to play in crafting bug and bird-friendly environments. Apart from staying away from property-wide mosquito sprays, Berman encourages people to consider researching native vegetation.

That doesn't necessarily mean mosquitos or blackflies will get worse. Naturalized environments might attract mosquito-loving Nightjars who can eat up to 10,000 bugs a night.

Switching away from LED lights can help too, the blue shade of light attracts bugs to a cottage since it mimics the evening sky. She suggests amber lights and a lower wattage is a better choice. Smoke can act as a repellent too, one that won't cause long-



The Land Between installed its first Motus tower to track bird migration patterns in Spring 2021. Submitted.

term effects on a bug's habitat.

Berman said the Land Between will be focused on that kind of education over the next year, also developing information packages for local governments.

"The municipalities and landowners don't have enough data or information to make decisions that have a wider and longer view and so we can help fill these gaps" Berman said. "You cannot take pieces away from the food web and not have a cascading effect."

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Highlander environment

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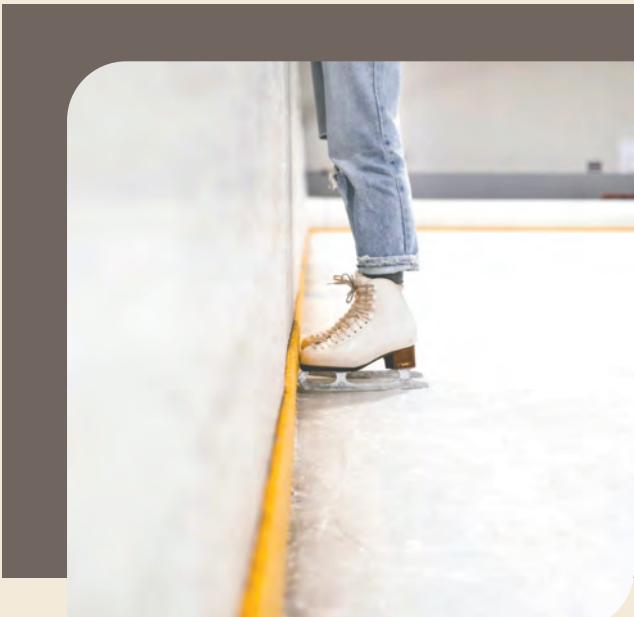
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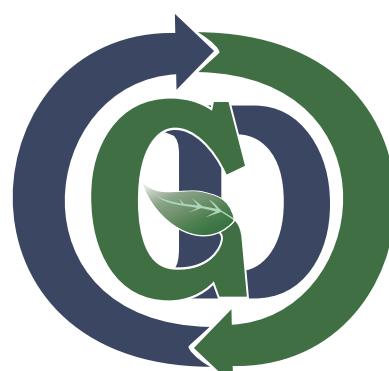
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Highlander people



Left: Robert Novak, left, and Lee Blair at a construction site on Brown Island, which Novak hopes to rename in Blair's honour. Right: Lee Blair, right, helped build the property that Robert Novak now calls home on Brown Island, located on Soyers Lake. Submitted.

Soyers Lake man seeks to honour late Lee Blair

By Mike Baker

When long-time cottager Bob Novak bought an island on Soyers Lake in the mid 1990s, he knew just the man who could help turn his dreams into reality.

The name Lee Blair is practically synonymous with Soyers Lake, located a few kilometres west of Haliburton village. In the 1970s, he played a pivotal role in developing land fronting the water, gaining a reputation for "doing things the right way."

"Lee always did things in a tender way. He was a developer, but he was extremely passionate about the environment. Every project was well thought out, and done in a way that maintained nature and all its beauty," Novak said. "He had an extremely

good reputation here in Haliburton County."

Novak first met Blair in 1970, when the developer, who owned and operated Blair Sand and Gravel for decades until his retirement in 1993, was building a dock at a cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog. The pair hit it off and became friends.

It was only natural then, when Novak acquired his island, that he would look to Blair for advice on how to go about building his dream home. Blair served as an advisor to the construction firm tasked with completing the project.

The property now serves as Novak's seasonal residence. He spends his summers in the Highlands, surrounded by the serene space that Blair spent years fostering. Speaking to *The Highlander* from his

winter home in Israel, Novak said he's found an ever-lasting way to appropriately acknowledge Blair's contributions to Haliburton County. And he needs the community's help to do it.

"I want to rename the island Lee Blair Island," Novak said. "Everybody I've ever talked to that knew Lee, had only good things to say. When I would tell people Lee was helping me with my build, they would tell me I was in the best hands. This is my way of remembering, and commemorating a friend."

Novak began the process to legally change the name of the island in 2017. He submitted an initial application to the provincial government, and has followed up annually to check on the process. After

years of hearing "yes, we're looking into it," the government launched an online survey earlier this year, looking for public feedback on the name change request. The survey can be accessed at ontario.ca/page/geographic-names. The deadline for submissions is March 31.

Given there's so much confusion locally about what the island should be called – Novak said it's labelled on maps as Brown Island, but more widely referred to as Blueberry Island or Camp Allsaw Island – he feels it would be a fitting way to remember a man that helped shape Soyers Lake into what it is today.

"It would mean a lot to me," Novak said of the name change. "It would help keep his memory alive."

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Highlander events



Left: Emily Stonehouse and Andrew Mansfield smooch the little ones at the Kissing Booth. Right: Gord Kidd kept warm in a tent while strumming tunes for those walking by.
Photos by Sam Gillett.

Love in the air at Abbey Gardens

Abbey Gardens' first Cupid's Carnival was a celebration of love, fun and tasty snacks. Attendees nibbled beavertails by outdoor fireplaces and kids took photos with ponies and slid down a toboggan hill. Inside Haliburton Highlands Brewing, vendors sold apparel, jewelry and art. Chocolatey "love potions" were whipped up outside to keep everyone cozy. More than 450 people attended the event which raised more than \$5,000 for Abbey Gardens' childrens' programs. (Sam Gillett).



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Each day involves a different element and principle term that will be explored through visual information, worksheets and creation of an art project.

COVID-19 regulations will be implemented. Children age 12 will be required to have QR code. Class size is reduced to allow for distancing. A COVID-19 screening questionnaire must be filled in before each class. All attending are required to wear a mask for the duration of the class and remain at their station. Stations will be equipped with all necessary art supplies.

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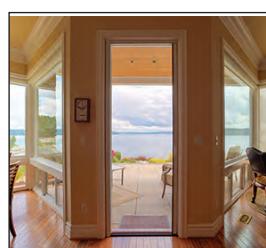
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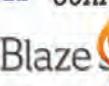
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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of John Cameron Winsley

(W. Bro. with the North Entrance Lodge #463 Haliburton and the Parkwood Lodge #695 Oshawa)

Passed away peacefully at home on Monday, January 31, 2022 surrounded by his family, at the age of 77.

Beloved husband of Audrie. Dear father of Shawn (Diane), Bronwen (Jay) and Meggan. Loving grandfather of Rachel, Caleb, Austin, Kaelyn and Harrison. Dear brother of Elizabeth and predeceased by Margaret. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate John's Life at 1:00 pm.

Please Note # All patrons (visitors) must provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and identification prior to entering. Social distancing, face coverings and lists for the names and phone numbers of the visiting attendees are required for contact tracing.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



In Loving Memory of AINSWORTH, Gerald Glen "Dean"

On February 4, 2022, Gerald Glen Ainsworth passed away at his home in Brechin, Ontario. Dean was in his 53rd year, and leaves behind his Mother, Ruth Black and Step Father, Gordon Black.

He was predeceased by his father, Gerald Ainsworth (Jerry).

He will be missed by his siblings, Glen Ainsworth (Dianne), Deborah Rowbotham (Carl), Shelley Petherick (Blake), Tammy Ainsworth (Dave) and Christine Morton (Wade).

He will also be missed by his children, Tammy Stewart, Jordan Hamilton (Brittany), Jenna Hamilton (Anthony), his grandchildren Dylan, Emily, Jasmine, Haidyn and Mila and fondly remembered & forever missed by Jill Hamilton.

He will also be missed by his many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. His dog "Jango" will miss him as well.

Dean will be cremated at Mackey Funeral Home.

A Celebration of Life to follow at a later date.



In Loving Memory of Marie Blair

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Beloved wife of the late Lee. Loving mother of Marnnie. Dear sister of Shirley (Bernard), Roger (Cathy) and aunt of Susan (Bill) and her children Andrew (Katie) and Jessica, loving great great aunt to Kensley and Remi-Lee; Alexander and Sophie. Marie was lovingly cared for by Anne, Elaine, Susan, Kathryn, Annah, Nancy, Crystal and Keelan. Thank you to Dr. Suke, Dr. Stephenson and the care team at Highland Wood.

A Private Graveside Service will take place at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation-Highland Wood LTD (HHHSF-Highland Wood LTC) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than Friday February 25th, 2022 at 12:00pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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- needed for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License required for 11 passenger van and bus. Call 705-457-9898

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\$15 / hour plus gratuities. Call 705-286-1818 ask for Wilson, or drop resume off at Mark's Restaurant, Minden**

MAPLE AVENUE TAP & GRILL – 2 Line Cooks, experienced in Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. Prep person required for morning shift. Dishwasher required. Call Andy at 705-306-0964

Abbey GARDENS
Seasonal Programming Assistant

Full Time May – September.
\$18/hour

Support spring and summer programming with program design and development, implementation, facilitation, and evaluation with the support of experienced outdoor educators.

Resumes can be submitted to:
irene@abbeygardens.ca

More info at:
abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs

MOVING SALE

MOVING SALE – Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1057 Colonial Road, Minden or by appointment. Call Joe 705-306-0979. Propane, Wood, Pellet stoves & chimney's, 39' House Trailer, Argo, Tractor, Cars & Trucks. Bldg materials & windows. Corner Bathtub, Tub, Generators, Recliner, furniture & a lot more. Come and look for yourself. Awesome deals - everything must go!

WANTED

SCRAP VEHICLES – Cars, trucks, farm equipment. Site cleanup. Contact DW text 705-457-0710

FOR RENT

Hall for Rent

Nice clean, bright space available for training, meetings, and family gatherings. Tables, chairs, and kitchen available. 1/2 day-\$75, full day-\$125, licensed event-\$200. All events are subject to Covid protocols.

Call 705-457-9664, or email hhoa@bellnet.ca
Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association,
6712 Gelert Rd., Haliburton

SERVICES

SNOWPLOWING, road & driveway cleaning & widening, sidewalk & roof shoveling. Dangerous tree removal. Seniors discount. Call or text 705-457-0710

SILVERWOOD SERVICE – Offering in home hair care & light housekeeping. Experienced Licensed Professional Stylist. Eye for detail cleaner. Follows all Provincial Covid guidelines, vaxed & masked. Call 705-455-7935

DRIVEWAY SNOW BLOWING / roof and deck shoveling. Contact by calling or texting 705-457-8784

FOR RENT

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION MINDEN BRANCH has a 2 bedroom self-contained second floor apartment available from March 1st. Private entrance with deck, Heat, A/C, Hydro, water, parking and Wi-Fi included. Rental rate \$1,400.00 per month. No smoking, pets or children and references with credit check required. Applications available at the Legion Monday to Friday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



Haliburton Highlands
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Executive Director
Full Time, Permanent

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is seeking an energetic and enthusiastic professional to fill this excellent management opportunity!

If you have knowledge of the Haliburton Highlands area and community businesses, and possess qualifications and experience in:

- Relationship and Concensus Building
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Membership Management
 - Events and Project Management
 - Office and Financial Administration

We would love to hear from you!
Please submit a cover letter and resume to:
admin@haliburtonchamber.com

Full position description available at
www.haliburtonchamber.com



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DZ FUELS DELIVERY DRIVER & CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

SEND YOUR RESUME TO
CAREERS@MACEWEN.CA



NOW HIRING! SHOP N' SAVE

PERMANANT PART TIME & STUDENT POSITIONS

Please send resume to hafizmakani@sympatico.ca or drop off in store at 4071 County Rd 121, Kinmount.

HIRING?

Reach thousands
of Highlanders with an ad.
Email sales@thehighlander.ca
or call 705-457-2900



Full-Charge Bookkeeper (Contract)

RPM Marinas is looking for a full-charge bookkeeper to join our fun, friendly team.

This is a great opportunity for a team-player who wants to get their teeth into the books of two companies
- one of which has multiple locations.

You'll be an experienced self-starter who is happy multitasking, and you'll have first-class communication, organizational and customer service skills. You'll also be good at software such as Microsoft Excel, the Google platforms, and QuickBooks. Experience with CDK LightSpeed is an asset.

This is a 12-month contract to cover a maternity leave, with potential to extend.

Typical Duties include:

- Managing the full-cycle accounting functions, working closely with the team to prioritize deadlines and business needs
- Processing accounts payable and accounts receivable
- Managing bank/credit card and general ledger reconciliations, as well as payroll processing
- Analyzing balance sheet accounts on a regular basis
- Preparing government remittances for payroll, HST, EHT, WSIB, and subsidy.
- Payroll processing bi-weekly, including all remittances and reporting
- Preparing month and year-end working documentation
- Researching and reconciling discrepancies and ensuring that the accounting is in good order.
- Support team members with other duties and task as required such as answering phones etc.
- Occasional weekend, evenings are required, plus travel to other locations.

Job Type: Full-time 44 hours/week (contract with potential for extension)

Salary: based on experience

TO APPLY, EMAIL CHERYL@HALIBURTONRPM.COM



THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF HALIBURTON Requires

One (1) Permanent Engineering Assistant - Capital Projects

The successful applicant should have a college diploma in Civil Engineering or Survey Technology and will have 2-3 years of municipal work experience. Must have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$30.95.

One (1) Seasonal Engineering Student (April - August)

The successful applicant must be currently attending a civil engineering program, familiar with Total Station Surveys, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and have a valid G drivers licence. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$22.42.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 2, 2022.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

TheHighlander

It's what everyone's reading

Highlander puzzles

CROSSWORD sponsored by Ken & Jacquie Barry

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JACQUIE BARRY, Realtor
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stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

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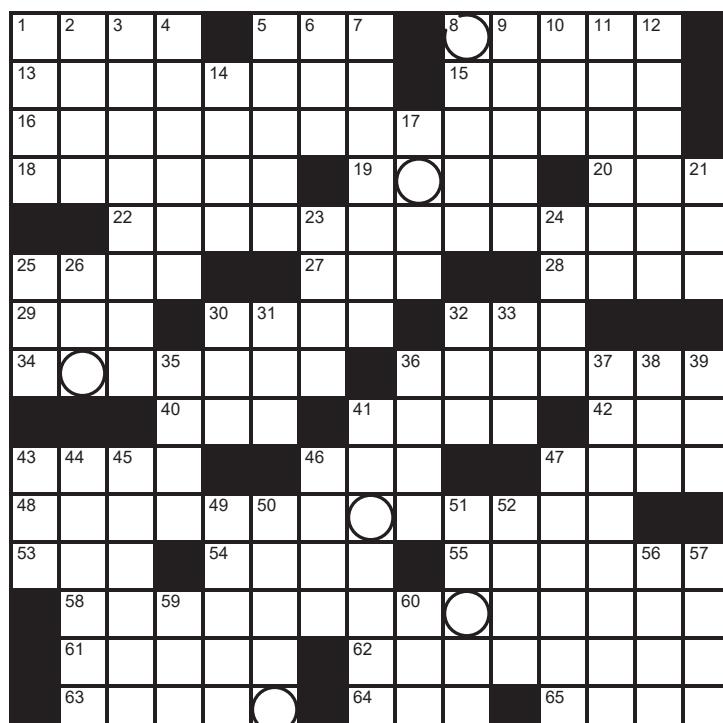


Six Senses

The answers to the starred clues share a common feature. Read the circled letters from top to bottom to reveal what it is.

Across

- Fictional woodcutter Ali
- Setting in most of Sask.
- Car battery jump-start
- In on, as discussions
- Part of O.B.O. in ads
- *"Plain as the ____"
- Lifted the lid on
- Canadian Liberal, casually
- Stick in a scull
- *Title setting of a Streep/Eastwood romance, 1995
- Hairy villains in a '68 sci-fi
- + on a batt.
- Warehouse gds.
- Kingston ___ (lifer's home, once, for short)
- Spun some tunes
- Take a quick time out?
- *Captain Smith's ill-fated ship
- *Top forty listing
- Quipster
- Displace, as from a flight
- May greeting card recipient
- "I ___ dead!"
- Canadian tenor Heppner
- Prefix with sphere or space
- *Snooker player's hangout
- Hot-dogger's board
- Vardalos and Long
- Claim without proof
- *Clapton's "Unplugged" instrument
- Prada wearer, in a film title
- Radius times two
- Hold the floor
- Fan of elephants?
- Bath sprinklers, in France



Down

- Barcelona bath
- Each
- Church area for bake sales
- Hubs of many Canadian towns
- Dance at a ceilidh
- ___ de plume
- Many an iPhone icon
- Base runner?
- Groaners, often

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

SUDOKU

2				9			7	3
5	6				8		9	
	7					4		8
				7				6
	1	6					5	3
8				6				
4		1					8	
	2		4				6	5
6	3			2				9

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

5	9	7	1	2	3	8	6	4
8	6	4	5	7	9	2	3	1
2	1	3	6	8	4	7	9	5
4	7	2	3	6	5	9	1	8
6	5	8	2	9	1	3	4	7
9	3	1	7	4	8	6	5	2
7	4	6	9	1	2	5	8	3
3	8	9	4	5	7	1	2	6
1	2	5	8	3	6	4	7	9



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Serving a level of cuisine you'd expect from an acclaimed urban eatery, Lands 8Fifty, a nod to the hundreds of forested acres thriving around us, is where superb international cuisine meets Haliburton's striking natural scenery.



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Inviting Ambiance



A Pause from the City



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LANDS
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1-888-765-9951 | nomiresort.com | 8fifty.ca